

CLAIM AMENDMENTS**Claims pending:**

- At time of the Office Action: Claims 1-29.
- After this Response: Claims 1-20 and 22-29.

Canceled claims: 21, without prejudice.

Amended claims: 1, 4, 5, 14, and 20.

New Claims: None.

The listing of claims below will replace prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
identifying multiple policies to be combined together;
determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;
adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set; and
resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based on an allowed range of policy values; and
including the preferred policy in the merged policy set.
2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the preferred policy represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple policies.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising determining an allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the preferred policy is contained within ~~an~~ the allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising deleting policies that are outside ~~an~~ the allowed range of values, wherein the allowed range of values is associated with the multiple policies.

6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selecting a preferred policy includes:

arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local policies;

determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates; and

selecting the preferred policy template based on the intersection of the conflicting policy templates.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selecting a preferred policy includes:

arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local policies;

determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates; and

selecting the preferred policy template based on the policy template closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policy templates.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies are event-handling policies.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies define how a device is to be configured.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies identify the types of events that are provided to each device.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein resolving conflicting policies includes comparing related policies individually.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the method is implemented by a management module.

13. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
identifying multiple policies to be combined together;
determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;
adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;
arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies;
determining an intersection of the conflicting policies; and
selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies
and within the intersection of the conflicting policies.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the preferred policy represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple policies.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising deleting policies that are outside the preferred range of values.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the policies are event-handling policies.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the policies determine how an associated device is configured.

19. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 14.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a storage device configured to store a merged policy set; and
a management module coupled to the storage device and configured to identify multiple policies to be merged into the merged policy set, wherein the management module adds non-conflicting policies to the merged policy set and resolves conflicts among conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based on an allowed range of policy values.

21. Canceled.

22. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein resolving conflicts among conflicting policies includes arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local policies, determining the intersection of the conflicting policy templates, and selecting the preferred policy template based on the policy template that is closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policy templates.

23. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the management module is part of an enterprise computing system.

24. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the management module receives event data generated by a plurality of event providers coupled to the management module.

25. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the multiple policies define how devices are configured in an enterprise.

26. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the multiple policies identify the types of events that are provided to each device in an enterprise.

27. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

identify multiple policies to be combined together in a merged policy set;

determine whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;

include non-conflicting policies in the merged policy set;

resolve conflicting policies by:

selecting an allowed policy range;

selecting a preferred policy range that is included in the allowed policy range; and

including the preferred policy range in the merged policy set.

28. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 27 wherein the policies are event-handling policies.

29. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 27 wherein the policies identify the types of events that are provided to devices in an enterprise.